

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**KODIAK, CHIGNIK, AND SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA – EASTERN DISTRICT
2012 BLACK ROCKFISH GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS
AND DARK ROCKFISH BYCATCH LIMITS**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has established guideline harvest levels (GHL) for the 2012 commercial black rockfish seasons in the Kodiak, Chignik, and Eastern District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area as follows:

<u>AREA</u>	<u>GHL (round pounds)</u>
Kodiak Area (Total)	135,000
Afognak District	35,000
Northeast District	20,000
Eastside District	30,000
Southeast District	30,000
Westside District	20,000
Southwest District	Bycatch Only
Mainland District	Bycatch Only
Chignik Area	100,000
No more than 45,000 lbs may be taken from any district	
South Alaska Peninsula Area–Eastern District	75,000

The Kodiak, Chignik, and the South Alaska Peninsula Area – Eastern District black rockfish fisheries open at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2012. The fisheries will close by emergency order when GHLs are attained or at 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2012 if GHLs are not achieved.

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Participants are reminded that a 2012 Commercial Fisheries entry Commission (CFEC) interim use permit for miscellaneous finfish and an ADF&G vessel registration are required before participating in the fishery.

Kodiak Area:

DIRECTED FISHERY: Mechanical jig and hand troll gear are the only legal gear types for directed harvest of black rockfish. Vessels using mechanical jigging machines are limited to operating no more than five lines with 30 hooks per machine. Vessels may not have more than 500 hooks in aggregate onboard the vessels at any time. A nonexclusive black rockfish district vessel registration is required prior to fishing. Vessel operators may not possess a valid Kodiak Area black rockfish registration and a parallel or state-waters Pacific cod registration at the same time. Vessel operators may change black rockfish district registration in person at the ADF&G office in Kodiak.

During the directed fishery, jig gear catcher vessels may not have onboard or sell more than 5,000 pounds (round weight) of black rockfish within a consecutive five-day period. Black rockfish in excess of 5,000 pounds must be weighed, sold, and reported on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the State of Alaska. Jig gear catcher-processor vessels may not have onboard or sell more than 5,000 pounds (round weight) of black rockfish within a consecutive five-day period and may not exceed 10,000 pounds sold or onboard within a ten-day period. All black rockfish taken in excess of the time-period harvest limit must be weighed, sold, and reported on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the State of Alaska. Logbooks are required for all jig gear vessels during the directed fishery and must be submitted to ADF&G after each delivery.

BYCATCH: Jig gear vessels may retain black rockfish up to 20 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel unless modified by emergency order. Non-jig gear vessels may retain black rockfish up to 5 percent by weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard. Black rockfish registration or logbooks are not required for black rockfish retained as allowable bycatch.

Chignik Area: Mechanical jig and hand troll gear are the only legal gear types for directed harvest of black rockfish. Vessels using mechanical jigging machines are limited to operating no more than five lines with 30 hooks per machine. Vessel operators must obtain a superexclusive black rockfish vessel registration prior to participating in the directed fishery. Vessels registered for the Chignik Area black rockfish fishery may not participate in any other directed black rockfish fishery in the State of Alaska during the same calendar year. Similarly, vessels registered in a directed black rockfish fishery outside of the Chignik Area may not participate in the Chignik Area directed black rockfish fishery during the same calendar year.

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Chignik Area vessel operators may simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and another directed groundfish fishery, including the parallel and state-waters Pacific cod fisheries.

During 2012, no more than 45,000 pounds of the total Chignik Area 100,000 pound GHL may be taken from any one district within the Chignik Area.

South Alaska Peninsula Area – Eastern District: Mechanical jig and hand troll gear are the only legal gear types for directed harvest of black rockfish. Vessels using mechanical jigging machines are limited to operating no more than five lines with 30 hooks per machine. Vessel operators must obtain a nonexclusive black rockfish vessel registration prior to participating in the directed fishery. South Alaska Peninsula Area vessel operators may simultaneously participate in the directed black rockfish fishery and another directed groundfish fishery, including the parallel and state-waters Pacific cod fisheries. The 2012 black rockfish fishery will be managed on a district wide GHL of 75,000 pounds.

Dark Rockfish

In 2009 the State of Alaska assumed management authority for dark rockfish from the federal government in all waters of the exclusive economic zone off Alaska. Currently there are no directed fisheries for dark rockfish. Vessels using jig gear may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 20 percent by weight of the targeted groundfish species or halibut onboard a vessel in the Kodiak and Chignik areas, and the South Alaska Peninsula Area – Eastern District. Non-jig gear vessels may retain dark rockfish as bycatch up to 5 percent by weight of the targeted groundfish species or halibut onboard.

For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Kodiak at 486-1840.

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